

Simplified key to coral genera in the wildlife trade (continued)

31. **Plocoid** growth form with distinct coenosteum between calices and:
- a. corallites extend 1-2 cm above coenosteum, septa smooth or not prominent
orange, yellow or black **Go to:**
Tubastraea
 - b. corallites bud extratentacularly, coenosteum is granulated *Echinopora*
 - c. corallites raised < 1 cm, septa extend into coenosteum 32
32. a. round corallites of unequal size; corallites budded extratentacularly 33
- b. round, oval and oblong corallites approximately equal in size; corallites bud intratentacularly *Favia*
- c. round, geometrically identical corallites, volcano like appearance *Diploastrea*
33. a. corallites generally > 5 mm; new corallites bud extratentacularly *Montastraea*
- b. corallites 2-5 mm; skeleton between calices stains black when dried *Oulastrea*
34. Colony plocoid; corallites circular; up to 3 mm diameter and elevated 1-2 mm from coenosteum; coenosteum granulated; septo-costae on corallite wall but do not extend onto coenosteum *Cyphastrea*
35. Colony cerioid; go back to 30 if corallites are prominent, round to hexagonal with obvious septa or go to 36 if corallites are small and pore-like 30 or 36

Echinopora (1999: 245 in trade, most dead; also 1500 kg)

- colonies have a variety of growth forms, including encrusting, plating, branching and massive
- individual colonies may exhibit a mixture of growth forms; plate may fold up forming chimney-like tubes (**photo C**)
- septa are exsert and irregular
- coenosteum has a distinctive, granular appearance

Favia (1999: 8,166 pieces in trade, most live)

- plocoid coral; new corallites form by budding within the tentacles
- “Pineapple Corals or Moon Corals” have round corallites
corallites 3-12 mm diameter and project slightly above colony surface
- septo-costae extend from corallites to coenosteum

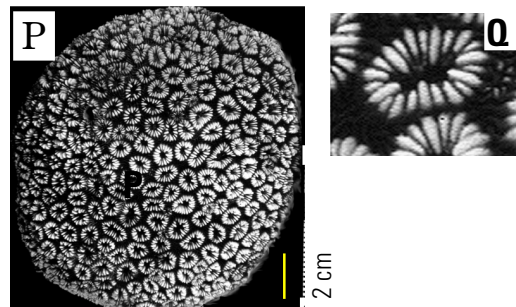
Montastraea and *Oulastrea*: (1999: 4,589 pieces in trade, most live)

- plocoid corals; new corallites form outside tentacles, on polyp wall
- *Montastraea* corallites are round and > 5 mm diameter
- *Oulastrea* corallites are round and irregular and < 5 mm diameter

Oulastrea crispata (1999: not reported in trade)

- common name: Small Star Coral
- colonies encrusting to submassive
- colonies are less than 15 cm diameter
- living colonies black and white

P) skeleton black when dried
Q) corallites 2-5 mm diameter



Massive, Foliaceous and Branching Corals

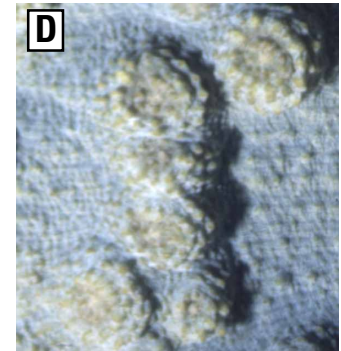
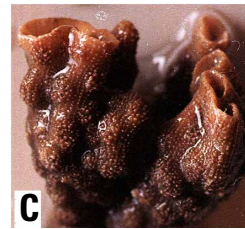
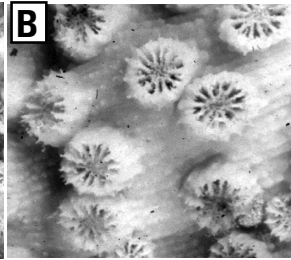
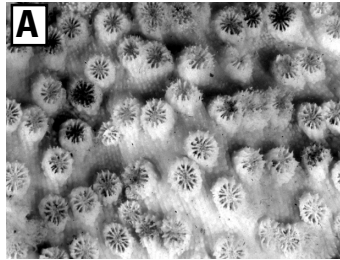
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Plocoid corallite arrangement

Plocoid colonies: each corallite has its own wall; corallite projects above coenoskeleton

Echinopora ■ common name: Vase Coral; Bermuda Coral (9 species)

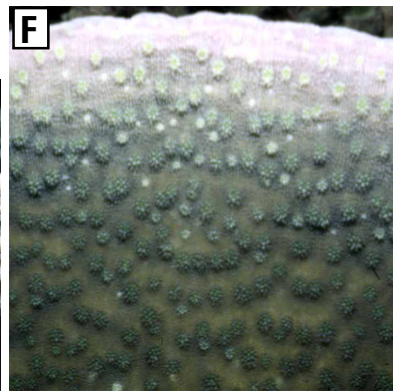
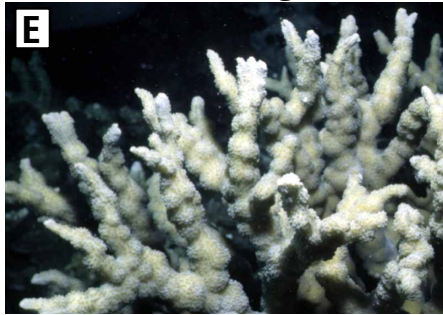
■ colonies plating (F), foliaceous (G), massive, encrusting and branching (E)
 encrusting form may develop branches; folded, contorted plates and tubes



A-G) corallites plocoid, up to 5 mm diameter

B,D) septa exsert; irregular

C-D) coenoskeleton granulated



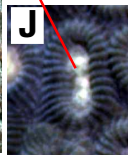
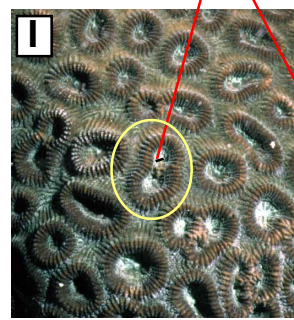
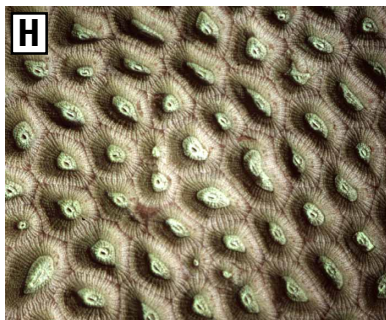
Favia ■ common name: Moonstone Coral (14 species)

■ colonies massive, flat or dome-shaped

Daughter corallites form by intratentacular budding

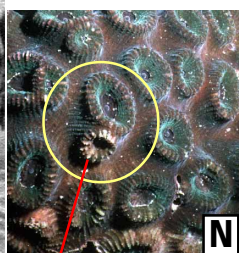
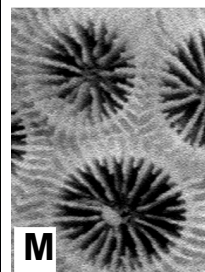
Favia is a highly variable genus with:

- plocoid (I) to subplocoid (H) corallites
- corallites spherical, columnar, conical, or irregular
- septa fine, neatly arranged or irregular and exsert
- paliform lobes absent or present



Montastraea ■ common name: Star Coral (5 species)

■ colonies massive, flat or dome-shaped



L-N) corallites 2-15 mm diameter

M) septa tightly compacted

daughter corallites formed by extratentacular budding

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Diploastrea (270 pieces in trade, live)

- moon coral colonies dome-shaped, even, may be up to 7 m diameter, 2 m height
- brown, tan, green; oral disc may be lighter in color
- septa equal and thick at base, and thin near polyp mouth; septa arch downward
- new corallites bud extratentacularly

Cyphastrea (1999: 319 pieces in trade, live)

- colony usually massive, mounding or lobate but may form
 short thick branches with axial corallites like *Acropora*
- corallites round, star-shaped with small calices
- corallites may be widely spaced and conical
- resembles some *Montastraea* with small polyps
- coenosteum with spines or granules

Acanthastrea (1999: not reported in trade, but may be misidentified)

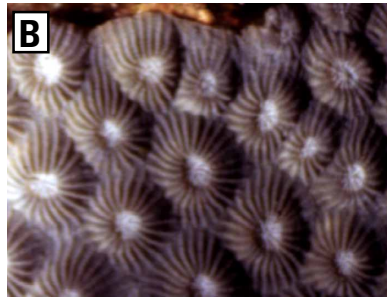
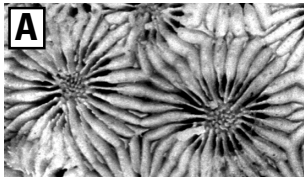
- colony encrusting to massive up to 1.5 m in diameter
- corallites cerioid, but may become plocoid
- septa have large teeth
- resembles some *Favia* with small polyps

Acanthastrea is similar to *Favia*, *Favites* and *Moseleya*, when retracted; underwater colonies appear much more fleshy, and tissue may obscure skeletal structures. *A. echinata*, shown to the right is the most common species that has been reported by exporters and in retail stores as *Favia* or *Favites*. Retracted polyps can be readily distinguished by thick concentric folds of tissue encircling each corallite

Faviid Corals with Plocoid growth form

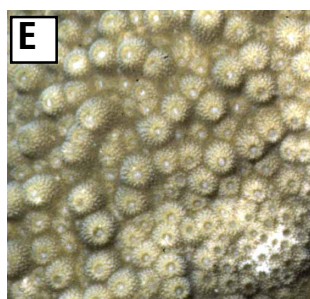
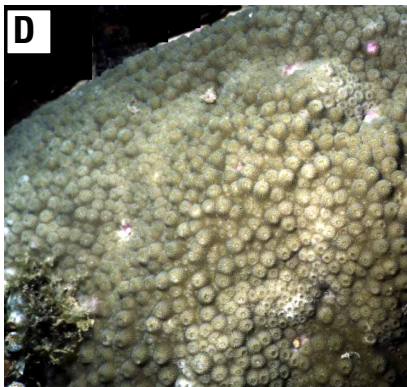
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- Diploastrea* (one species) ■ common name: Moon Coral
■ colony massive, dome-shaped, with even surface



- A) septa large and equal
A) septa thick on wall; columella large
B) corallites form low domes small openings and very thick walls
C) colonies form large hemispherical domes or mounds

- Cyphastrea* ■ common name: Knob Coral
■ colonies are encrusting to massive or lobate



- D) massive or encrusting
D-E) corallites plocoid
E) corallites <3 mm diameter
E) coenosteum is granular

costae restricted to corallite wall

- Acanthastrea* ■ common name: Pineapple Coral
■ colonies are encrusting, massive or lobate

- F) corallites cerioid or subplocoid; angular or circular in shape
F) colonies have fleshy tissue covering skeleton
- colonies may have large *Lobophyllia*- like polyps (>15 mm diameter) or small *Favia*-like polyps (3-15 mm diameter), like the example shown to the right;
- septa are thickened at corallite wall and have tall teeth
- tentacles extended only at night

Example with small *Favia*-like polyps

